

DR. GERALD B. PROBE ELEMENTARY

# ***School Handbook***

**2022-2023**

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<http://gpro.lethsd.ab.ca>

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## Administrators' Message

Dr. Gerald Probe School is an exceptional learning community which includes dedicated and talented staff, an active parent community and outstanding students. At the heart of our school is an unwavering commitment to student excellence. The 4 C's (Care, Creativity, Cooperation, and Courage) along with a focus on leadership skills provides a school-wide foundation to develop the whole-person and prepare students to become life-ready leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Each year we seek to challenge our students to become powerful thinkers and learners.

It is our desire to work in partnership with parents to provide high quality educational experiences for each student. We invite parents to become active and engaged in their child's education. Through this partnership, we strive to support students to develop a lifelong love of learning and build a strong foundation for future success.

We are honoured to work with your children and look forward to a fantastic year of learning in 2022/2023.

Sincerely,  
Keith van der Meer, EdD  
Principal

Carlie Ramotowski, MEd, MC  
Vice Principal



## Vision

Dr. Probe School is a community of confident, active learners who are inclusive and kind.

## Mission

Dr. Probe School fosters a learning environment where care, creativity, cooperation and courage support students' academic and character development.

## 4 C's: Care, Creativity, Cooperation & Courage

The community of Dr. Probe hold a very high standard for the school and does an exemplary job of displaying the Four C's: Care, Creativity, Cooperation and Courage. Most recently, staff looked to align the 4 C's with learners who would have the skills necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In doing so, one of the C's, "Concern," was changed to "Creativity."



# Gerald B. Probe School Staff

## Teaching Staff

Keith van der Meer	Principal
Carlie Ramotowski	Vice Principal
Carly Goruk	Kindergarten
Michie Moline	Kindergarten
Kelly Jo Craddock	Grade 1
Crystal Packard	Grade 1
Ellen Probe	Grade 1
Bernie Boulet	Grade 2
Jordan Logan	Grade 1/2
Misti Rogers-Olson	Grade 2
Bobbie MacKinnon	Grade 2
Jennifer Day	Grade 3
Krista Dixon	Grade 3
Sue Howg	Grade 3
Heather Reddekopp	Grade 3
Denise Cunningham	Grade 4
Chris Tuck	Grade 4
Lynda Wilkinson	Grade 4
Adam Campbell	Grade 4
Josh Campbell	Grade 5
Marla Bloudoff	Grade 5
Dianne Rajcic	Grade 5
Krystal Wolfram	Grade 5
Hudson Sheen	Fine Arts
Regan Brooks	Learning Support
Cathy Kitagawa	Teacher Counsellor

## Support Staff

Jenny Durling	Administrative Assistant
Glenna Stengler	Administrative Support
Angie Smid	Early Learning Educator
Tom Brooks	Head Caretaker
Brenda Solberg	Caretaker
Martina Bexte	Caretaker Helper
Lesley Masuk	Learning Commons Facilitator
Kerry Spanos	Speech Language Assistant/ Kinder EA
Dorita Friesen	Speech Language Assistant

## Educational Assistants

Gail Clark	Kenna Filgas
Matt Danforth	Michelle Meyer
Andrea Dieser	Kerry Spanos
Shannon Johnson	Staci Luchyshin
Nathan Lowrie	Nikki Coleman
Annie Bailes	

# School Bell Times



**Office Hours:** 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday  
8:00 am to 12:15 pm Friday

	<b>EARLY ED AM/PM</b> Monday-Thursday	<b>KINDERGARTEN AM/PM</b> Monday-Thursday, Scheduled Fridays
<b>Morning Class Starts</b>	8:20 am	8:30 am
<b>Morning Class Ends</b>	11:05 am	11:30 am (11:45 am on Fridays)
<b>Afternoon Class Starts</b>	12:35 pm	12:30 pm
<b>Afternoon Class Ends</b>	3:20 pm	3:30 pm

	<b>GRADES 1 – 5</b> Mon – Thurs	<b>GRADES 1 – 5</b> Friday
<b>Warning Bell</b>	8:25 am	8:25 am
<b>Morning Start</b>	8:30 am	8:30 am
<b>Break #1</b>	Grades 1 - 2: 10:30-11:02 am Grades 3 - 5: 10:55-11:27 am	Grades 1 - 3: 10:00-10:15 Grades 4 & 5: 10:20-10:35
<b>Break #2</b>	Grades 1 - 2: 12:55-1:27 pm Grades 3 - 5: 1:30-2:02 pm	No Classes Friday Afternoon
<b>Dismissal</b>	3:30 pm	<b>11:45 am</b>

## **Gerald B. Probe, PhD (1939-1989)**

Dr. Gerald B. Probe provided leadership in Lethbridge School Division for almost two decades. Dr. Probe began his career in Regina before coming to District #51 in 1970 as Director of Personnel. Dr. Probe was subsequently appointed Associate Superintendent of Personnel and Facilities Planning and served one year (1987-88) as Acting Superintendent.

Dr. Probe played a major role in directing public education in Lethbridge. He was responsible for all aspects of staffing and had significant involvement in the planning and construction of new facilities. His main impact, however, came from the consideration and support which he provided for the many individuals who comprise Lethbridge School District 51. Gerry Probe was described as a people person, who was committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for children.



## **Gerald B. Probe School Philosophy**

Dr. Probe School holds as its first priority the success of its students.

Dr. Probe School seeks to empower its students as independent learners, to develop in each student a sense of positive self-worth, and to help each student develop and practice personal and social responsibility.

Dr. Probe School recognises the uniqueness of each student and will provide learning opportunities which are designed to enable all students to develop to their personal levels of excellence academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

Dr. Probe School is a place where students, parents, staff, and community members feel safe, secure, and respected. To create this environment, we will assist each other to develop skills and attitudes in caring, creativity, cooperation and courage.

Communication among teachers, parents, and the community is essential to the successes of all of Dr. Probe School's partners in education.

Decisions at Dr. Probe School will be based upon the best interests of our students and society and, where appropriate, will be open to the participation of those interested in and affected by those decisions.

# Attendance Procedures

## Absences

Lethbridge School Division uses an absence reporting system called *SafeArrival*. Parents/Guardians are asked to report their child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **866-879-1041** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time. Do not call/email the school with absences as absences now need to be entered by the parent/guardian.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

## Students Going Home before the End of the School Day

Please sign your child out at the office if they leave before the end of the day. They will only be allowed to leave with a person on your child's contact list.

- **For illness:** When a student becomes ill at school and needs to go home, the school contacts the parent/guardian or emergency contact listed on the registration form.
- **For appointments:** Parents/guardians are asked to notify the teacher if a student is to leave for an appointment before dismissal time. They must also be signed out at the office.





# Visitor Access and Arrival/Dismissal

## Parent/Visitor Access to the School

During the 2021-2022 school year, our school found that keeping the school secure was a safety benefit, and therefore, will continue 2022-2023 with this practice. Parents and visitors are welcomed and encouraged to come into the school. Upon entry, all visitors are asked to enter through the NE front door and sign-in and out at the office. We look forward to the many opportunities that will seek to engage and include our families and community members at the school.

## Morning Drop off

Morning supervision begins at 8:15 am. Please do not drop your child off before this time. When the warning bell rings, students will be welcomed into the school through their grade level entrance doors.

Students who arrive after the bell need to enter through the front door and sign in at the office.

## Afternoon Pick up

At 3:30 pm, students will be dismissed through their grade level entrance door by their teacher. Parents are welcome to receive their child from the teacher there; this practice keeps hallways quiet and conducive to learning.

## Parking

Please **do not park in the staff parking lot or in the bus zone**, located in front of the school. Parents are encouraged to park along Rocky Mountain Boulevard or in the church parking lot to the east of the school.

## Grade Level Entrance Doors



## School Fees & Supplies

A school levy fee of \$20 is charged to help cover the costs of supplementary learning opportunities and materials. Fees can be paid online at <https://lethbridge.schoolcashonline.com>.

Grade level supply lists are available at <http://gpro.lethsd.ab.ca/>. We would appreciate parents labelling all school supplies with the child's name prior to sending them to school.



## Busing

Busing is available for students who reside more than 2.4km from Dr. Probe School and are within the school boundary. Currently, the only students eligible for bussing are those students living in the Paradise Canyon subdivision. Students riding the bus must follow the bus rules and display respectful behavior. Please advise the school of any transportation arrangements which may be different from a student's regular routine.

Students are requested to be at their stop at least five minutes prior to the bus arrival time. Bus drivers are not required to wait for students who are tardy in arriving at their stop as it alters the bus schedules. The bus will not leave the school until six minutes after students have been dismissed.

Detailed bus route maps are available in late August of each school year on the school division's website by [following this link](#).

**Please note** that for the 2022-2023 school year, afternoon buses are scheduled to arrive at the school after the dismissal bell. This presents a need for increased awareness regarding student safety that parents should be mindful of. To further mitigate any risk associated with buses arriving while students are exiting the school, administration and teachers will discuss safety and awareness with students at the beginning of the year. Further, outside supervisors will monitor students and safety during times of bus arrival.

# COVID-19 Safety

Previous safety protocols, specific to COVID-19, at Dr. Probe School were based on the direction and recommendations of the Alberta Government and in the best interest of the safety of our students and staff. These procedures included consideration giving to student and visitor entry/exit, use of the Alberta Daily Health Checklist, cohorting, limitations surrounding groups and gatherings and enhanced hand and hygiene practices. Through the course of the 2021/22 school year, we have continued to be responsive to the direction of the Alberta Government and have adjusted procedures accordingly. Moving into the 2022/23 school year, we will maintain some of the procedures as outlined below as they have served many benefits beyond the mitigation of spreading the COVID-19 virus. As always, these procedures are subject to change in response to directives from the Alberta Government, the needs of the school and decisions made in best interest of the safety of our students and staff.

## **Entry/Exit:**

To limit traffic and optimize the flow of students in the school, specific doors will continue to be assigned to grade levels. Doors will continue to be supervised and we will maintain a “soft” entry for students whereby doors will open at 8:25AM each school day to welcome students into their classrooms. Parents will not be permitted in the school for drop off and pick up.

## **Screening/Symptoms:**

We continue to encourage families to keep their children home if they are not feeling well. Any use of symptom and screening tools will be at the direction of Alberta Health and, without their indication, will not be required at the school level.

## **Hand Hygiene/Sanitary Practices:**

Students will be reminded and educated surrounding proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette as part of their back to school induction. Posters will remain in classrooms and bathrooms as additional reminders and encouragement to practice these techniques. Further, students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands when entering the school as well as during snack and break times.

## **Visitors/Extracurriculars/Large Gatherings:**

As the school year begins, we plan to continue welcoming all visitors into our school through the main office entrance. We promote the philosophy of “Access with a purpose” whereby parents and family members are encouraged to be a part of their child’s educational experience through volunteering and attending school events. Any visitors that do enter the school will first be required to sign in using our visitor log. We also look forward to the continued opportunity to offer extracurricular opportunities to students and to invite our community to celebrate our students through ceremonies and assemblies at the school.

## Student Assessment and Reporting

There are three formal reporting periods during the school year in November, March and June. The elementary report card is designed to communicate the learner's achievement relative to his or her subject area and grade level. Staff at Gerald B. Probe School will use a variety of assessment strategies to gather authentic and on-going evidence of a child's growth and learning.

A new process started in 2020: The first parent-teacher conference will take place in October, but the first report card will not go home until November. This allows for conversation about learning with parents to take place earlier in the year and gives more time for student growth before grades are assigned for the first term.

Please remember that additional conferences with your child's teacher may also be scheduled at any time throughout the year. If you have any questions about how your child is doing, please contact your child's teacher.

**Report cards are accessed electronically through [PowerSchool](#).** Your username and password will be provided at the start of the year from the office. Notify your child's teacher if you require a paper copy.

Report Period	Dates
1 <sup>st</sup>	Conference: Thursday, October 20, 2022 (PM) and Friday, October 21, 2022 (AM) Report card: sent out on November 25, 2022 <i>This allows for meetings to take place earlier in the year and gives more time for student learning and assessment before grades are assigned for the first term.</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Report card: March 10, 2023 Conference: March 16, 2023 (Afternoon and evening)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Report card: June 28, 2023 No conference



# School Spaces

## Up Sensory Room

This is an inclusive space where students can come to regulate by doing heavy work. “Heavy work” allows students to develop their proprioception (the awareness of where your body is in space, and the vestibular system, the sense of balance). Having students work on their proprioceptive and vestibular systems helps them become aware of how their bodies move and how they can control their movements.

## Down Sensory Room

The Down Sensory Room is an inclusive space where students can come to relax and decompress. There is a Snoezelen bench which provides tactile and visual regulation. Bubble tube, music, fiber optic lights, tactile bins, rocker, apple tv and projector are just some of the activities children can engage in.

## Learning Commons

The Learning Commons at Dr. Gerald P. Probe school is an inclusive, flexible, learner-centered space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play. This space occurs both virtually and physically in classrooms and in the Learning Commons. The key component of a Learning Commons are makerspaces, which utilize creativity and free-thinking of students to learn, create or master design components from different modalities. Examples are makerspace centers at Dr. Probe include magnetic gears, designing wooden rollercoasters, robotics and working with circuits and conducting electricity. The Learning Commons encourages student creativity and self-guided learning utilizing books, applicable technology and working with small groups both in classrooms with portable makerspaces, as well as in the Learning Commons.

## Gym

We are fortunate to have a large gym with a large variety of equipment. The gym is used for physical education classes, as well as numerous extra-curricular activities, such as our grade 5 basketball league. A large screen and projector was recently added for assemblies and group presentations.





## **Exercise Stations**

Hallways have exercise bikes, an elliptical, trampoline or items for heavy work. One hallway also includes a sensory path. This allows students to have access to movement breaks as needed throughout the day.



## **Art Room**

The art room has tables, sinks, art supplies and is ready for to foster creative learning experiences.

## **Wellness Room**

The teacher counsellor works out of this inclusive space for universal, small group and individual support as well as provides education around mental health and wellbeing.

## **Computer Lab**

Located within the Learning Commons, our computers are used to develop student skills in keeping with the technology curriculum. All students and their parents must sign an Acceptable Use Agreement at the beginning of the school year and are expected to adhere to acceptable standards of behavior while online. Lethbridge School Division works to offer the best possible ways to allow students access to e-mail and Internet services to enable students to locate current information resources and exchange messages with students around the world.

3 Laptop carts, ipads and a variety of coding and robotics devices are also technology tools available to students.

## **Music Room**

The instruments and materials in the music room facilitate creative expression through performance, listening and composition. Students receive two fine arts lessons a week from a trained music and fine arts teacher.

## Student Programs and Services

At Dr. Probe School, we embrace an inclusive approach to education. We create welcoming learning environments that engage students in a breadth of quality learning experiences that develop innovative minds and responsible global citizens. Learning experiences provide meaningful engagement with content and options in how to learn, process, and demonstrate understanding. Environments are flexible and responsive to the strengths and needs of individual students.

### **It's a Blast**

The Lethbridge Community Out of School Association IT'S A BLAST program, is a non-profit organization licensed to provide out of school care for children 6 to 12 years old. Qualified Blast staff offer before and after school care at Dr. Probe School. Programs are also offered over holidays and during the summer. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities occur including board games, Lego, craft projects, play centers, group games, and much more. There is a monthly program fee. If before or after school care is needed, contact the BLAST office at 320-3988.

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

Breakfasts are prepared each morning and available to all students (as needed and those referred) by a food service provider. Lunches are provided by The Lethbridge Food Bank. Food options follow the Canada Food Guide. Dr. Probe has a food permit and our kitchen is inspected regularly. Breakfast Program staff have Food Safe training and follow all food safety protocols.

*If breakfast or lunch is needed for your child, please contact the vice principal, office, or your child's teacher.*

### **Levelled Literacy Intervention**

Levelled literacy intervention is a powerful, short-term intervention that provides daily, intensive, small-group instruction, which supplements classroom literacy teaching. *LLI* can turn struggling readers into successful readers with engaging leveled books and fast-paced, systematically designed lessons. *LLI* is taught within classrooms and small cohort groups.

### **YWCA Groups**

YWCA workers facilitate weekly groups in the fall and spring to support a positive sense of self and mental health.

### **Clubs/ Leadership/ Co-Curricular Activities**

A variety of clubs, co-curricular activities and leadership opportunities are offered throughout the year.

## **Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy**

Lethbridge School Division employs its own SLPs and OTs. If services are needed, a referral is put in through the Learning Support Teacher.

## **Learning Support**

Our Learning Support Teacher (LST) works collaboratively with classroom teachers and student support services to meet a broad range of learner needs within the school. The LST also oversees the Learning Team process. The team, for each identified student, is group of individuals, including family members and where appropriate the student, who works collaboratively toward the success of the child and their family. The focus of the Learning Team is on promotion, prevention and Intervention strategies to support individual learners. The goal is to identify necessary supports and services and ensure that they are consistently and effectively implemented within an inclusive school environment.

## **School Psychologist**

A school psychologist is available for consultation regarding programming and supports with learning teams. The psychologist may also provide assessments after universal and targeted support strategies have been utilized.

## **School Counselling**

Our teacher counsellor provides mental health and well-being support to all students. The teacher counsellor consults with families, teachers, and administration to provide proactive mental health supports universally, in targeted groups and individually upon referral. The teacher counsellor also acts as a liaison between home and school regarding counselling issues and coordinates services with outside community agencies when a need is identified.

## **Health Nurse**

All schools within the Chinook Health Region are assigned a health nurse. Our assigned nurse has always been an excellent resource for promoting optimal health for staff, students and families through consultation and collaboration within the school and community. The role involves a variety of activities and responsibilities, including:

- education support/resources;
- prevention and control of communicable diseases;
- consultation/case conferences/home visits for at risk families;
- liaison/referral to community agencies.

## **Youth Engagement Officer**

A youth engagement officer forms a partnership with the school and the Lethbridge Police Service school to support a safe learning environment and establish positive relationships with students and families.

## Human Sexuality

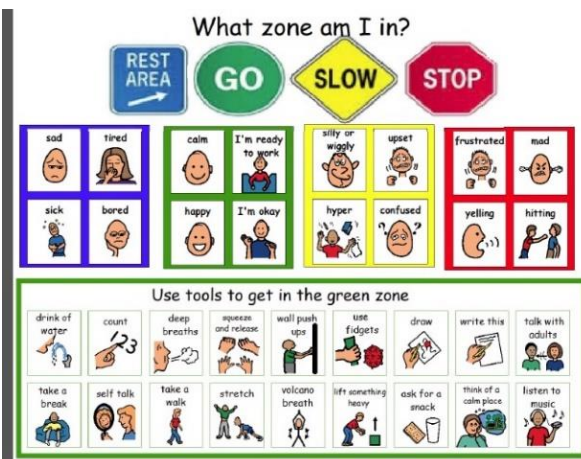
Lethbridge School Division provides training for teachers to deliver a program on Human Growth and Development to students in Grades 4 and 5. A notice will come home to inform parents as to when instruction will occur and the information covered. If parents do not wish for their child to participate, they can complete and return a letter of exemption.

## Kids in the Know

*Kids in the Know* is the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's national safety education program. The program engages students with interactive activities to help build skills that increase their personal safety and reduce their risk of victimization online and offline. Parents are informed of the content covered before lessons occur and parents have the option to return a letter of exemption if they do not wish for their child to participate.

## Student Leadership

Dr. Gerald Probe focuses on student leadership to prepare students to become life-ready leaders. Leadership skills are taught, modelled, and put into practice in daily interactions with others and through more structured authentic leadership opportunities. Inspiring the leader within empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.



[www.zonesofregulation.com](http://www.zonesofregulation.com)

## The Zones of Regulation

The Zones is a systematic, cognitive behavioural approach used to teach self-regulation by categorizing all the different ways we feel and states of alertness we experience into four concrete coloured zones. The Zones framework provides strategies to teach students to become more aware of and independent in controlling their emotions and impulses, manage their sensory needs, and improve their ability to problem solve conflicts. By addressing underlying deficits in emotional and sensory regulation, executive functioning, and social cognition, the framework is designed to help move students toward independent regulation.

# School Code of Conduct and Procedures

## **Student Rights (Policy 500.1):**

- the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister
- an education program consistent with the requirements of the School Act and the Regulations
- a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- be heard by school administrators, teachers, and support staff.

## **Student Responsibilities:**

- be diligent in pursuing their studies
- attend school regularly and punctually
- cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and services
- comply with the rules of the school
- respect the rights of others
- ensure their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- refrain from, report, and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed towards others in the school, whether or not it occurs on school property
- respect and care for personal and public property; and
- be accountable for their own conduct.

Every child has the right to an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, students at Dr. Probe School are expected to exhibit respectful, responsible and safe behaviour. At the start of the year, staff will review school rules with students and practice them. Dr. Probe's 4 C's are taught and reinforced to promote behaviours conducive to learning and ethical citizenship.

We believe all students do well if they can, and that many disruptions or student dysregulation is a result of lagging skills (such as lack of conflict resolution skills) or unsolved problems (student is frustrated by an unsolved problem and is acting out). Collaboratively, staff will support students to self-regulate and work on a plan to focus on skill building, making positive choices or solving a problem.

## **Minor Offences**

For minor offences, staff will support the child to self-regulate, reflect on incident, make a plan for restitution (if necessary) and positive choices going forward. Parents will be notified.

## **Major Offences**

For major offences (behaviour that is unsafe, significantly impacts others, or is ongoing), administration will become involved and a meeting will take place with the parent(s) staff involved and the child if age appropriate. We will work collaboratively to



create an action plan to support the child for learning and growth to occur. Other services may become involved if needed, such as counselling or community supports.

Major Offences may also result in suspension from class activities and/or school activities. After exhausting all interventions available, students who chose to continue to display inappropriate behaviours may be suspended from school. The length of the suspension is determined by the severity of the incident as well as the number of incidents.

Should a suspension take place, the parent(s) of that student may be required to accompany them to school to determine a course of action before the child returns to the class and/or activity.

### **Appeals**

If a parent or guardian disagrees with a school-based decision which significantly affects the education of his or her child, the School Act makes provisions for appealing that decision. As per District Policy, reference “505.9 Appeals”, the first appeal of an employee decision shall normally be made to the employee who made the decision. From there, depending on the nature of the issue, the appeal may be made through the school Principal, to the Superintendent of Schools, to the Board of Trustees. Please refer to policy 505.9 on the district website at [www.lethsd.ab.ca](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca) for full details.

Staff member involved → Principal/Vice-Principal → Associate Superintendent(s) → Superintendent or School District Personnel → Board of Trustees → Alberta Education

### **Threat/Risk Assessment (Fair Notice of Violence Threat Risk Assessment VTRA)**

Our School Division believes in creating safe and caring environments for students and staff. Any incident where a student engages in behaviour which threatens or appears to threaten the safety of others will be investigated. Administrators can implement a Risk Assessment for behaviours that are worrisome including writing or drawings with violent themes, references to or involvement in violent activity at school, or an increased interest in activities that are deemed as dangerous to the safety of others.

A Threat Assessment is implemented when a student threatens to kill or injure others, harm themselves, brings a weapon to school, or makes direct verbal or written violent threats to others. The Threat/Risk Assessment regulations are outlined in Policy 502.1 in the School Division Policy Handbook available at [www.lethsd.ab.ca/](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/).

### **Search and Seizure of School or Personal Property**

As per policy 502.1.5, Lethbridge School Division Board believes that enforcement of the Board and/or school rules may, from time to time, require that school administration conduct a search of property and/or the seizure of prohibited or missing items. The Board authorizes school Principals, in connection with the enforcement of

district or school rules, to carry out searches of student desks, lockers, clothing and personal property such as knapsacks, book bags or purses.

The physical search of a student is prohibited. Searches of personal property shall be in accordance with the following:

- Searches shall be conducted in the presence of an adult witness;
- Students may be requested to remove outerwear: hats, jackets, footwear;
- Students may be requested to empty their pockets and contents of any object which may be used to transport, carry or conceal materials.

Weapons of any kind will be disposed of or turned over to the police. They will not be returned to the student.

The Principal shall provide police access to the property of a student (see Policy 504.8 Involvement with Authorized Agencies) or personal information regarding the student without informing the parent in the following circumstances:

- When the police officer is in pursuit after the commission of an offence;
- When the police officer is in possession of a search warrant or subpoena;
- When the police officer possesses blanket powers of search as defined by legislation;
- The Principal is authorized to seize prohibited items.

## School Records

The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPP) governs the kind and use of records kept by schools. In accordance with FOIPP and Lethbridge School Division guidelines, the following procedures concerning student records are in effect at Dr. Probe School:

1. In the case of students transferring to schools within Lethbridge School Division, all student records will be automatically sent to the new school.
2. In the case of students transferring to other school divisions, special procedures are in effect and will be explained prior to the transfer.
3. At any time, a parent/guardian may inspect his/her child's records. However, reports written by psychologists must be reviewed with the writer of the report. All confidential reports are kept in a secured file.
4. Should a parent/guardian wish to discuss the accuracy of any records, an appointment may be made with the Principal.
5. If, after examining your child's records, you do not wish to have some information in the records relating to your child, please notify the Principal in writing with reasons stated.

## Student Medication and Health

In cases where the health of the student depends on the administration of medication, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to file a detailed “Request for School Assistance with Administration of Medication” form with the school. These mandatory forms are available in the school office and require a doctor’s authorization. School staff are **not** permitted to administer Tylenol, Aspirin, or any other over-the-counter medication to students.

Any prescription medication must be kept locked and will be administered only if the above procedures are followed.

If a student becomes ill at school, they will be taken to the sick room and parents will be called to pick them up. If parents cannot be reached, other contacts will be called.

### **Anaphylaxis Protocol**

When a child is identified with an anaphylactic, diabetic, epileptic, or other life-threatening condition, the school will follow a number of procedures:

1. A letter will be sent home to all class parents requesting that food that contains harmful allergens not be sent to school.
2. Students will be taught the importance of the ‘no sharing food’ rule.
3. The food allergens involved will not be allowed in the classroom.

While anaphylaxis is a frightening disease, and can appear suddenly, violently and without warning, working as a team of parents and school staff, we can make it manageable. Death can occur within minutes and trace amounts, or even breathing the aroma of an allergen, can cause a reaction. Every attempt will be made to help ensure the safety of these children. While Gerald B. Probe School is a “nut aware” school, we cannot guarantee that it is nut free.

### **First Aid**

When a child is injured at school, the child may be given emergency first aid by the school staff. Depending on the nature and severity of the injury, parents, or the person listed as the emergency contact on the student registration form, may be notified. An alternate emergency number is most important should we be unable to reach the parent. If no one is available, our best judgement will be used for determining appropriate medical treatment. If a student is deemed to be at high medical risk, the student will be transported to hospital by ambulance.

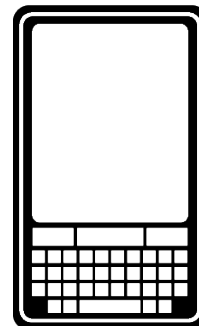
### **Head Lice Protocol**

For the prevention and detection of head lice, we strongly urge parents to conduct weekly detection combing at home. Information about this from Alberta Health Services can be found on our school website. As per division practice, the school is not responsible to check for head lice, and “alert” letters will not be sent home. Students who have had head lice should return to school when the recommended treatment is completed.

## Use of Personal Technology

### Cell Phones and Electronics

We understand that parents want to be connected with their children after school to be certain they have arrived safely at home or to a caregivers. During the day, parents can call the school at breaks or after school to talk to or get a message to their child. Therefore, students arriving at school with cell phones will give them to the classroom teacher to keep during the day for safety. They will be returned to the child at the end of the day.



Electronics such as iPads and gaming devices should never be brought to school. In the event that students do bring them, please be aware that students will give these to a staff member to hold until the end of the day. **The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or other electronics.**

Students shall **not** bring any of these devices to school unless invited by their teacher to do so.

## School Procedures

### Nutrition Breaks

At Dr. Probe School, our school implements what is called a “Balanced Day”. This means that our day is divided into three instructional sections, with two nutrition breaks. Students play for 20 minutes first and then eat afterwards in their classroom. Microwaves are not available for student use.

All students are expected to go outside at recess. If children are too ill to go outside at recess, they are considered too ill to be at school.

### Inclement Weather

Students will be expected to remain outside until the bells and during recess breaks. In the event of severely cold (-20C) weather, students will be permitted to come inside into designated areas. Breaks will be held indoors when the principal or designate judges the weather to be inappropriate for outside recesses. Please ensure children are appropriately dressed before they head off to school.

### Student Dress

Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions (i.e. mittens, boots, warm coats, hats, etc.). Parents are urged to ensure children dress appropriately and tastefully for school. Tops exposing the navel and/or midriff and offensive language on T-shirts are considered inappropriate. Also, clothing worn by a younger student may be in good taste, but may not be suitable for older students (halter tops, short shorts). Students arriving at school with inappropriate clothing will

be required to go home to change or call their parents to bring a change of clothing.

All students take physical education classes and should have appropriate gym footwear available in the school. Footwear which is soiled or wet due to inclement weather will not be worn in the school. Flip flops are not considered safe for the playground.

### **Bicycle and Scooter Safety**

Students riding bicycles and scooters to school must know and practice the safety rules. The following guidelines have been established to prevent accidents and to help the students develop good bicycle riding habits.

- All students may ride their bikes and scooters to school with parent permission.
- Bicycles and scooters are **not to be ridden on the school grounds** during school hours. They must be walked and locked during the day.
- Riding double on a bicycle or scooter is not safe, and therefore, not permitted.
- Helmets are required by law for cyclists under 16 years of age.

The bicycle and scooter racks on the school grounds are to be used by the students. Bikes and scooters should be placed in the racks and locked until the end of the school day. While every effort is made to provide a secure place for bicycles and scooters during the school day, students should realise that they bring their bicycles to school at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen bikes or scooters.

### **Two-Shoe Rule**

Students will be required to have an extra pair of shoes at school that will be worn inside of the school at all times. This will ensure they have proper footwear for physical education in the gym as well as reducing the amount of sand and mud that is tracked in from shoes worn outside. In case of fire, students are required to wear shoes at all times during the school day. “Heelies” are a safety concern and should not be worn at school.

### **School Communication**

School communication will be delivered through monthly school newsletters sent through School Messenger and posted to our website. Reminders and notices that don't make the school newsletter will be sent out through School Messenger. Dr. Probe's Facebook page will also feature events and news of the school that is updated throughout each month.

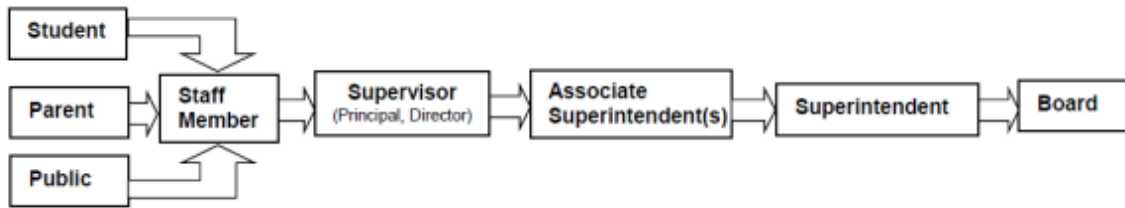
Please ensure the office has your updated email address and register for School Messenger.

### **Collaboration**

The research on effective schools is clear. Students achieve better in schools where parents and teachers work well together. Problems and concerns are more effectively



resolved when communication occurs early. At Gerald B. Probe School, we encourage everyone to practice Habit #5: Seek First to Understand and then to be Understood. If you have any concerns about your child, please phone the teacher involved. If a parent/guardian disagrees with a school-based decision, the proper appeal procedure should be followed (District Policy 1003.1):



## Emergency Information and Procedures

Sometimes it becomes necessary to close the school without prior notice. This may be due to loss of utilities, snow and icy conditions, student disturbances, or threatening circumstances. If it becomes necessary to close and evacuate the school for any reason, children will continue to be supervised at **Immanuel Lutheran Church** (20 Rocky Mountain Blvd W) until regular dismissal time. In accordance with Lethbridge School Division Policy 364, students may be released at a time other than the normal school dismissal time in the following situations:

- Students may be released to a responsible adult for safe transportation home provided a record is kept of the student's and adult's names.
- Students who normally walk to school may be permitted to walk home provided it has been determined that there is a responsible adult to receive the child.
- Students may be sent home on the bus only after the Principal is satisfied the media have been notified or that parents have been contacted.

In case of a disaster emergency **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL FOR INFORMATION**. Emergency information and directions for the public will be aired on local radio during an emergency. Please keep the school office informed as to the current emergency contact information for your child. A follow-up message will come from the school through the School Connects/Safe Arrival system after the incident is over.

### Fire Drills

To ensure that your child receives proper guidance in coping with emergencies, Gerald B. Probe School conducts regular emergency drills to evacuate the building. Strict adherence to evacuation procedures is a must for everyone in the building. Fire drills are practised at least six times a year to ensure quick, safe evacuation routines. It is important that all children wear appropriate footwear during the school day in case of emergency evacuation.

## **Lockdown Protocol and Perimeter Secure**

Lockdowns are designed to be a preventive, proactive measure to help ensure the safety of our children, staff and parents and are used when there is a threat posed to the occupants of our school. Lockdowns are practised twice each school year with the Lethbridge Police Service in attendance. Strict adherence to lockdown procedures is a must for everyone in the building. Parents are notified in advance of practices and following any unplanned lockdowns.

“Perimeter Secured” may also be used if there is a threat outside of the school but students are safe to continue normal operations inside the school. In this case, all doors would be locked and monitored and students would not be allowed outside. An examples of a threat in this situation includes a wild animal roaming in the schoolyard.

## **Children During the School Day**

Our school policy is to release students only to parents or guardians listed on the registration form. Please come to the office and sign the student out prior to going to the child’s classroom. If someone else will be picking students up from school, a note is necessary. Gerald B. Probe School staff will be alert to observe suspicious persons who loiter in our building and on the surrounding grounds. If such persons cannot readily provide a logical explanation for their presence, the police will be notified immediately. No student shall be sent home from school for any reason, unless the parent or designated guardian is informed according to Policy 355.

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds between arrival and dismissal hours without permission from the Principal or designate subsequent to notification of the parents.

## **Custody and Access**

Parents are encouraged to share with staff any unusual problems regarding guardianship. The school will not become involved in custody disputes, and cannot stray from information provided in Parenting Orders or Custody Agreements. Parents are required to provide the most recent copies of these to the school office. If no Parenting Order or Custody Agreement has been provided, the school must assume that both parents have equal access and must provide it. Parents are strongly encouraged to have formal agreements in place to avoid conflict at home and at the school.

## **School Council**

We value the hard work and contributions to Dr. Probe School by our School Council members. School Council is a group of parents who work together to enhance the learning experience of all of our students. School Council is also a place for parents to have opportunities to be involved in decisions at Dr. Probe. All parents/guardians are

welcome to attend one or all meetings; it is a great way to connect with other Probe parents! By attending the regularly scheduled School Council meetings, parents can keep informed of school issues and take an active role in their child's education.

The Executive for the year is elected at the Annual General Meeting which takes place in early September. The minutes from each meeting will be posted on the school website.

Council meetings are not an appropriate forum for airing grievances or complaints. If you have concerns, please make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher (for a classroom related issue) or administrator (for a school related issue).

